

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 17-33 are pending in the application, with claims 17-19, 24, 25, 27, 28, and 33 being the independent claims. Claims 1-14 and 16 are sought to be canceled. Claims 17-33 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

In section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 16 were objected to merely for formal matters. However, claims 1-14 and 16 have been canceled, rendering these objections moot. Nevertheless, the objections will be discussed with respect to new claims 17-33, which Applicant believes more clearly recite the claimed embodiments of the present invention.

Claims 1-14 and 16 were objected to because the independent claims recite "mapping a series of digital levels received at an input of a circuit" and then recite "receiving at the input of the circuit a signal corresponding to said digital level". The Office Action inquires how the "digital level" corresponds to the "series of digital levels" previously recited.

Applicant clarifies that the "series of digital levels" includes the "digital level". Support may be found, for example, at paragraphs [0019] and [0025] of the present patent application. Applicant notes that this confusion has been removed in new claims 17-33.

The Office Action further inquires as to the meaning of "similar", as recited in claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 14. In new claims 17-33, the term "similar" has been replaced with the phrase --substantially equal-- merely to avoid confusion. This amendment is not being made for reasons relating to patentability nor does this amendment narrow the scope of protection.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 17-33 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 18, 2005

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